TRACER

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corp)

6422 Main Street, Union, Illinois 60180

Telephone: 815 923 2267

Editor: Alvin Maidak

Volume II - No. 1 Quarterly Newsletter Fall, 1975

Since our Twelfth Annual Meeting at the Museum on June 8, 1975 we received word from the Illinois Bicentennial Commission that we were to receive $1500.00 as matching funds to finish the painting of the eaves and downspouts, scraping and painting of cupola, and painting of circular fire escape by one contractor; and installing and painting of shutters on windows on south and west side of museum by a second contractor. It was necessary to make each shutter individually to fit each location. All above work has been completed and we are grateful to the Illinois Bicentennial Commission for their "matching funds" aid.

Volunteers are also helping with other painting both inside and out which we hope to complete before the end of the year in readiness for the Grand Opening in 1976. The needed tuckpointing has also been completed.

We are fortunate to have a custodian "in residence" at the museum now. He has done carpenter work all his life and is a great asset - in our line of need.

If you have not paid your 1975-1976 dues by the time you receive this TRACER, please send it in "quickly" as you will be amazed at how much it can do to help your own county historical society keep their running expenses paid on time. Family membership $5.00; Individual $2.00; business firms $15.00; organizations-yearly donations; and life memberships $100.00.

Riding Mower Donated

Carl Fogle, owner of the Huntley Farm Store recently donated a riding grass mower for use by our museum custodian, Jim Butcher, as well as this writer. We surely appreciate the saving of time and energy this donation has made in keeping the museum grounds in trim. Thanks again!

Report of the McHenry County Realtors Association Raffle

The County Realtors Association recently held a second raffle to make their second payment on their pledge of $5000.00 to our society. A booth was open at the 4H County Fair to sell tickets in promoting the raffle. First prize of a 4H Steer was won by C. Dewey of Crystal Lake. The second prize, a 4H Hog, was won by Jan Kapischke of Lake Villa .

Attend Workshops

There have been several workshops during the last three months and Dorothy McEachren and Ramona Martin attended one at Lake County Museum at Lake Zurich on the restoration of pictures and paintings. Another one at Illinois State Lodge at Zion was sponsored by the America the Beautiful Foundation from Washington D. C. with representation from the middlewest, and about 20 historical societies and organizations were in attendance - about 100 in all. There were four workshops and Dorothy McEachren, Thresile Mulvenna, Ruth and Otis Cripe each attended one. Discussion was on what the city, town and country historical organizations were doing to help preserve our Heritage. A third one was held at the Des Plaines Historical Society and they invited area museum members to attend. Otis and Ruth Cripe attended from 6 PM to 10 PM. Their Curator and Director gave rules to follow in getting a newsletter written and printed - "dos and don'ts". The group then went to a print shop and watched "off-set" printing. So our members and directors are trying to learn about procedures that will help us in our museum work.

Items for Sale

As a result of renovation we have several items for sale. Black and green chalkboards - $10.00 large; $5.00 smaller. School desks - $5.00 each. Toilets with attached seats, lavatories and urinals - $5.00 each. 1 bubble fountain - $5.00. Also 1892 maps of McHenry County - $10.00 each.

Acquisitions

Staircase and arched double doors and several pieces of trim from the now demolished pre-Civil War home of P. W. Dietz, father of Harley , west of Marengo. Also tin cup from water pump, early business calendars, a notched stick for holding windows "up", and about thirty neckties from the early 1900's. Donor: Ralph Deneen, Marengo.

Wooden cigar boxes, Argus Camera with leather carrying case from the 1950's, wooden folding doll bed with mattress, pillows and doll, all fifty years old - 1920's. Back issues of DAR magazines and genealogical magazines. Donor: Jane Ingram, Crystal Lake.

Forty-eight star U. S. A. flag bought at auction when Todd School closed in 1954. Donor: Mrs. Chris Klabude, Woodstock.

Harvard Milk Day Programs, 1953 - 1975. Donor: Thresile Mulvenna, Harvard.

Men's clothing from 1950's, women's clothing from 1950's and 1960's, ladies' shoes from 1960's, purses from 1940's and 1950's. Included in clothing is a taupe pois de soie evening dress with long sleeves worn on platform of First Church of Christ Scientist, Woodstock, by the donor who was the first reader, 1959-1963. Use of these long dresses by readers has since been discontinued. Donor: Mrs. Henry Setzler, Wonder Lake.

Framed photos of early scenes of Richmond baseball teams, business establishments, etc., 1885 History of McHenry County, copy of Standard Atlas of McHenry County of 1908. All were from the estate of Dick Richardson, Richmond, beloved and recently deceased director of your society board.

Jockey stick used in hitching third horse to team from early 1900's. Donor: Elwin Ocock, Union.

Assorted early school texts and reference books. Donor: Margaret Conley, Huntley.

Valentines given to "teacher" Louisa Winn, by pupils from 1905 to 1965. She taught at Greenwood, Spring Grove and Hagaer schools. Donor: Ben Winn, Richmond.

Studio Photos of Woodstock Male Quartet of 1925 showing Ben Anderson, first tenor; Thomas Merwin, baritone; Clarence Coonrad, second tenor; and John Fish, bass. Note: A missionary relative wrote Chinese phonetics for song "Throw Out The Life Line" which the group had in repertoire. Donor: Mr. and Mrs. Philip Masslich, Woodstock.

Tracings

Is there anyone prepared to donate a speaker system for museum use?

We are still looking for barn space for storage of the large farm implements presently located at the county fairgrounds.

We are seeking farm houses over one hundred years old in the same family, to be recognized by plaques. The state marked many farms during the 1968 Sesquicentennial that fit in this catagory.

Wanted: posters, programs, pictures, sheet music, etc., from entertainment field of long ago.

Tracings (continued)

Wanted: families to write genealogy on cards at $1.00 per family, to be placed in museum archives.

Who knows of the whereabouts of the old horse trough formerly located at McHenry and Madison Streets in Woodstock?

Where is the old cast iron fountain that stood in Woodstock Square before the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was erected? This fountain was removed to the northeast corner of Blakely and Ridgeland Streets and then moved in 1926 by John Stompanato to his property. Where is it now?

Who knows the full name of a Mr. Chambers of the Oliver Typewriter Band who also composed band music? When and where did he reside in Woodstock?

The Illinois Arts Council requests a list of all photographers doing business in McHenry County from 1839 to 1914. Please forward name and addresses if you know of any?

Volunteers

We are in the process of making a complete alphabetical list of all who have "volunteered" their services to help at the museum when we were ready for the kind of work each offered to do. So all one hundred of you will be contacted soon, as WE ARE READY FOR YOU AND YOUR TALENTS! YOU ARE NEEDED! We want to open the museum to the public as soon as possible.

Bradley Foss Grocery Store at Ringwood, Illinois. When taken? What was the occasion? The woman in upper window is Mrs. Bradley, aunt of Clyde Holmes of Woodstock.

RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL, 1914. CORA LOCKWOOD, Teacher. Can you identify the pupils?

McHenry County Historical Society
Box 434 - 6422 Main Street
Union, Illinois 60180

Not-For-Profit Corporation
U. S. Postage
PAID
Union, Illinois 60180
Permit No. 9